

## Polio in California at Lowest Level Since 1944; Shots Cited

The total incidence rate of polio in California is now lower than any year since 1944, and the incidence of paralytic polio is at the lowest level recorded since the reporting of paralytic status was initiated in 1948.

That was the word from the State Department of Public Health this week, as it urged some 3,000,000 unvaccinated Californians under 40 to obtain the Salk polio shots. Some 6,000,000 Californians have received at least one polio shot. According to Dr. Malcolm Merrill, state director of public health, the winter is the best time to receive the series of shots, since the height of the polio season is reached in late spring.

Vaccination against polio has been a significant factor in the low incidence this year, Dr. Merrill said. The greatest reduction in paralytic rates has occurred among school-age children in whom immunization levels are known to be highest. The reduction is somewhat less among preschool children who have not been reached as extensively by local vaccination programs. The reduction is least among young adults, of whom only a minority have received vaccine. This year, for the first time in California records, the paralytic incident rate is lower among children aged 5-9 than among adults aged 20-29.

### No Shots Received

Approximately three-fourths of the paralytic cases this year occurred in patients who had received no vaccine prior to onset; 15 per cent had received a partial series of inoculation, and less than 10 per cent had had three inoculations. The 10 per cent represents 15 cases, predominately with mild weakness, in which confirmation of diagnosis by laboratory study is still pending.

No deaths have occurred this season among vaccinated cases. This emphasizes, of course, the importance of receiving all three of the recommended inoculations for the highest degree of protection.

### Rate Reduced

These evidences of vaccine effectiveness are in keeping with the 75-85 per cent reduction in paralytic disease among vaccinated children observed in evaluation studies in 1955 and 1956. These children received three vaccine injections. The first two shots were spaced one month apart, with a seven-month gap between the second and third shots.

In reflecting the benefits of vaccination, the incidence data this year emphasize the need for further vaccination. Nearly 150 paralytic cases have already occurred since April 1 among persons who received no vaccine, and the number will likely reach 200 by the end of the "disease year" next March. (Since the upswing in polio cases starts in April and is lowest in March, the 12-month period used in tallying cases is April 1-March 31.)

Approximately one-third of these unvaccinated cases are children under five, another third are adults and the remainder are school children who still have not been reached by the vaccination effort.

By July 1, after the local vaccination campaigns were for the most part concluded, estimates indicated that roughly 70 per cent of the population under the age of 20 had not received any inoculations of Salk vaccine. Less than one-fourth of the vaccinated had completed the series of three inoculations.

It would be premature to conclude that paralytic polio is at the point of virtual eradication so long as this considerable portion of the susceptible population has not been protected by immunization.

### Local Picture

Figures in Torrance correspond closely with the statewide average.

## COMMITTEE EYES PLANS FOR GIFTED

A special committee for study of possible program developments for the brighter-than-average student has been organized at South High School, under the direction of Principal Bruce Wagner.

The group has sought to set up standards to identify the "gifted student" from among his fellows, to study work in the field, and to make proposals to improve the program.

After several meetings, the committee is studying the following proposals:

1. Organization of special clubs to promote more intensive study in special interest areas.
2. Possible organization of special classes for fast learners on Saturday mornings.
3. Possible organization of special periods within the daily class schedule for laboratory or seminar-type work for advanced students.
4. Arrangements for high school instructors to work with advanced student groups or clubs in the elementary schools after school.

## Riviera Club Opens Doors Despite Hole

Despite a barricaded wing, the Hollywood Riviera Club is open for business.

Rains washed away more than 4000 yards of earth, a catch basin and storm drain and 300 square feet of street and sidewalk surrounding the club last Monday.

The gaping hole undermined the west wing of the club and caused a couple of cracks in the building which were quickly repaired.

Manager Norte Wisdom minimized the damage to the club, part of which lies in the Torrance city limits. The part which was undermined by the rain waters was in Redondo Beach. Beach firemen and street crews worked round the clock, dumping loads of dirt in the chasm.

## Kiddies' Art Classes Will Start

Moni Gillett, noted South Bay artist, will begin a series of art classes for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 15 years.

Sponsored by the Torrance Art Group in cooperation with the Torrance Recreation Department, these classes will begin on Saturday, Jan. 11, and continue through Feb. 15 at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge.

There is a registration fee of \$5 for the entire series of six lessons. Children between the ages of six and nine years will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and those 10 and older will

meet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Applications are now available at the Torrance Recreation Dept., 3031 Torrance Blvd. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 20 students in each class.

Miss Gillett, a native of Australia, has lived in the United States for 30 years and has her B. A. from the University of Tasmania, Australia. She is a retired teacher from New York State, where she taught art in Westchester, and Long Island public schools. Her extensive art background includes a Master of Fine Art from Columbia University, and a Bach Fellowship in art research at Waitland, Fla.

## Single Case of Mumps Reported in Torrance

A single case of mumps was the only disease reported in Torrance for the week ending Dec. 14, according to the County Health Department.

Throughout the Torrance health area, single cases of amebiasis, gonorrhoea, scarlet fever, and tuberculosis.

### Isen on Committee

Mayor Albert Isen has been named a member of the revenue and taxation for the League of California Cities.

### CURRENT MEASURE

New York—The first meter to measure alternating electric current was invented in 1888.

## Levy Named Director

Sam Levy, pioneer Torrance businessman and civic leader, has been elected to the board of directors of the Los Angeles County Heart Assn., it was announced this week by W. Thomas Craig, board chairman.



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<b>Ground Beef</b>	A&P Quality	<b>39c</b> lb.	<b>Crabs</b>	Fine for Cocktails 2 to 2 1/2-lb. Average	<b>35c</b> lb.

### Peak-Fresh Produce Priced for Savings

S. U. NO. 1 SIZE "A" RUSSET <b>POTATOES</b>	10 Bag. lb.	<b>39c</b>
THICK-MEATED CALAVO <b>AVOCADOS</b>	2 for	<b>25c</b>
FRESH HAWAIIAN <b>PINEAPPLE</b>	Sweet Juicy lb.	<b>9c</b>
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SENIOR <b>RIPE OLIVES</b>	Mammoth Size Jar	<b>19c</b>
NORTH COAST <b>APPLE SAUCE</b>	2 1-lb. Cans	<b>23c</b>
SUPER-RIGHT <b>ROAST BEEF</b>	Holiday Favorite 12-oz. Can	<b>37c</b>
WISCONSIN AGED <b>CHEDDAR CHEESE</b>	Per lb.	<b>59c</b>

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<b>Sliced Pineapple</b>	DEL MONTE 20-oz. Can	<b>27c</b>
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<b>Dill Pickles</b>	FOOD CRAFT 57-oz. Jar	<b>49c</b>
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